

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

**Application ID:** 13ED147938

**Program Name:** American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant provides documented and convincing evidence that the veteran and military community needs additional support services in order to handle the stresses of deployments as well as struggles when acclimating back to civilian life.
- (+) A subset of the targeted community is economically disadvantaged, as documented by the applicant through compelling reports citing high unemployment, homelessness, veterans living at or below the poverty level or accessing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- (+) The applicant states its premise for selecting the target population to be served, as well as their operating partners/sites, as based on their historic mission of service to the military and veteran community.
- (+) The national program will be held in six specific sites that were chosen because of local interest from the sites themselves and support of operating sites who have been serving the military communities, but not able to keep up with the current demands for services.
- (+) The applicant comprehensively describes the roles and responsibilities of each Member slot requested, and the activities that will be accomplished at a variety of programs and offices.
- (+) The applicant justifies their request for 25 AmeriCorps members, placing them throughout the United States. and in a variety of fields, such as emergency services and green energy.
- (+) The applicant details the strong collaborative efforts made through public and private partnerships with AmeriCorps members, serving military families, and providing necessary services to the target population.
- (+) The methods for measurement of outputs and intermediate outcomes through use of daily logs and periodic surveys are described in some detail. Those being excluded from intermediate outcome measurement are also noted, with attendant justification.

(+) The applicant provided two methods of gathering information about the project. One method of gathering information was through tallying interactions with military members and their families; the other method was by surveying participants at the service initiation, at the service conclusion, and six months later to receive feedback on subjective information about participant experience in the program.

(+) The applicant is partnering with a nationally recognized University using the University's staff and students to assist with the development, refinement, and implementation of the performance measurement systems.

(-) The applicant provided one measureable target of reaching 50,000 veterans annually, but does not provide a basis of how that number was set or how meeting that goal would be obtained.